

roads in the vicinity are marked now by rocky beds washed clean of earth and road-embankments are scarred by treacherous and deeply gnawed gullies. Here and there on the broad sandy, gravelly flood-plain of the San Felipe, now dry after the rainless months of summer and autumn, lie piles of broken and uprooted brush, collected and dropped by the torrent. Hundreds of individuals of *Agave deserti* are strewn along the wash, showing that somewhere above, the flood had ripped out a planting of this rare endemic. Many of the uprooted *Agaves* are withered and will probably die, but many have been left half buried in the sand and are growing where they have been dropped. But all the work of the flood is not destruction for gravel bars and sand banks have been built and where there were quiet back-waters flats of silt and fine sand have been deposited. In such a place on finely sifted soil, protected by shrubs of *Chrysothamnus paniculatus* now covered with a mass of yellow bloom, a trio of interesting *Euphorbias* are growing together. All are annuals and all spread prostrate, much-branched stems over the ground, stems that are starred with delicately colored and variously shaped flower-like involucre. Can this one, appearing in richness of color like a magic carpet of the East, be an annual phase of *E. polycarpa*? So it would seem, related perhaps to *E. cinerascens* Engelm., a type with slightly pubescent herbage and very narrow gland-appendages. Here, scarcely a span distant, is *E. setiloba*, the fine stems copiously glandular, bearing myriad small involucre with gleaming-white, stellate gland-appendages. No artifact of man was ever contrived so amazingly. And, as if planning to imitate their nearly endless array of form and color, yet another species grows in the colony. It is *E. pediculifera*, a more elegant species than the others with pale grey-green herbage and broad white gland-appendages which fade to deep rose in age. From all about, the sparsely planted rocky walls of the desert canyon look down, seeming grim and unordered in contrast to the minute details of beauty on the alluvium below. The shrubs on those arid slopes, scraggly and dormant, exhibit from a distance, the monotony of a single species, but experience has shown that at appropriate seasons such brush produces flowers of many orders and kinds. And there too, among disintegrating rocks and in shallow soil-pockets grow many small plants, each in its own niche or cranny, each as fine and as inspiring as the fragile mats of *Euphorbia*.

NOTES AND NEWS

An extremely readable paper on "The vegetation of the Mohave and Colorado deserts of southern California" by the late S. B. Parish has been published in *Ecology* for July, 1930 (11:481-499, figs. 1-9).

Mr. Carl Purdy is making cultural studies of all Pacific Coast Cotyledons and Sedums. He would be glad to receive living material of the native species for his garden at The Terraces, Ukiah, California.